

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

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R 121225Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4572

UNCLAS ANKARA 6185

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC (ECEVIT, BULENT)

SUBJECT: ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS ON US TRIP

1. IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE RETURNING TO A HERO'S WELCOME AT ISTANBUL AUGUST 6 AND ANKARA AUGUST 7, FORMER PRIMIN BULENT ECEVIT HAS STRUCK A GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE. HE HAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION PUBLICLY FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S GIVING HIM SO MUCH TIME AND HAS NOTED THAT "THE PRESENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWS TURKEY'S PROBLEMS WITH GREAT UNDERSTANDING." HE ALSO HAS BEEN QUOTED AS HAVING INFORMED PRESIDENT KORUTURK THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD TOLD HIM, "THE TURKISH NATION MAY BE SURE THAT WE KNOW THE VALUE OF TURKISH FRIENDSHIP." IN ADDITION, ECEVIT HAS NOTED HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS CONTACTS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY RUMSFELD.

2. ECEVIT HAS STRESSED THE NEED FOR TURKEY, IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC WESTERN COUNTRIES, TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITIONS TO PUBLIC OPINION IN THOSE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO THE GOVERNMENTS. WHILE REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR AN "INDEPENDENT" POLICY AND CLOSER TIES WITH COMMUNIST AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO SPOIL RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, AND STATED HIS BELIEF THAT "THE TIME HAS COME TO GIVE A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC WESTERN COUNTRIES."

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3. AS REGARDS THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA), ECEVIT HAS LIMITED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE DCA "MAY NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT IN THE NEAR AND FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE."

4. CONCERNING THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE IN NEW YORK, ECEVIT IN HIS STATEMENTS HAS EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. HE HAS ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING ALL MANKIND FROM THOSE WHO TRY TO MAKE THEIR IDEAS PREVAIL BY FORCE, AND HAS CALLED ON ALL TO HOLD LOVE IN PLACE OF ENMITY TOWARD THEIR ADVERSARIES.

5. IN A BRIEF BUT VERY CORDIAL CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON ARRIVAL AT ANKARA AIRPORT, ECEVIT SAID HE WOULD BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE AMBASSADOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS HIS TRIP.  
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